

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 DODE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04

DRC-01 /059 W

----- 097831

R 281500Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7924

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, US, UNCTAD, UN, OECD, CS

SUBJECT: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES

REF: STATE A-5007

1. THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, INDUSTRY, AND COMMERCE (MEIC) WITH THE STRONG BACKING OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INTENDS TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA TO RATIFY THE UNCTAD CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES REFERRED TO IN THE REFERENCED AIRGRAM. THIS DECISION EVIDENTLY TOOK FORM AS A RESULT OF AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MARITIME TRANSPORT USERS

(ASOCIACION DE USUARIOS DEL TRANSPORTE MARITIMO) WHICH WAS RECENTLY HELD IN EL SALVADOR. THE ASSOCIATION REPRESENTS USERS FROM CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA. THE PRINCIPAL MOTIVE FOR CALLING THE MEETING WAS TO ANALYZE RECENT INCREASES IN FREIGHT RATES CHRGED
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BY THE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CONFERENCES. BECAUSE OF

INADEQUATE PORT FACILITIES AND THE GENERAL WORLD INFLATIONARY SITUATION AS AGGRAVATED BY THE RISE IN PETROLEUM PRICES, CENTRAL AMERICAN PORTS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN HIT WITH A SERIES OF SURCHARGES FROM SUCH CONFERENCES AS THE LATIN AMERICA/PACIFIC COAST STEAMSHIP CONFERENCE, WITASS, AND THE JAPAN LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MAJOR CONFERENCES SERVICING CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA HAVE BEEN INVITED BY THE ASSOCIATION TO ATTEND A FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN GUATEMALA TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT RATE SITUATION. SO FAR, ACCORDING TO THE COSTA RICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AT LEAST, NO RESPONSES HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM THE CONFERENCES.

COMMENT: THE DECISION TO ENDORSE THE CODE OF CONDUCT AS A MEANS OF DEALING WITH WHAT IS VIEWED AS ARBITRARY AND DRASTIC INCREASES IN FREIGHT RATES ON THE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CONFERENCES APPEARS TO HAVE COME ABOUT WITHOUT MUCH, IF ANY, REAL ANALYSIS OF THE CODE ITSELF. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS COME OUT ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS IN OPPOSITION TO EFFORTS TO LEGISLATE CARGO-SHARING AND YET CARGO-SHARING IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL COMPONENTS OF THE CODE. ALSO, THE MEIC OFFICIAL HAVING AUTHORITY IN THIS AREA WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FAVORED THE CODE AS DRAFTED. IN AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE GREATER STUDY OF THE MATTER, THE EMBASSY INTENDS TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE MEIC AND THE CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES (WHICH SEEMS TO BE UNAWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE CODE) COPIES OF THE UNCLASSIFIED ATTACHMENTS TO THE REFERENCED AIRGRAM. SPANISH LANGUAGE COPIES OF THE CODE, ITSELF, HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH SEICA (SIECA 1741 PCE/RPT. 35).
LANE

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE A RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, TREATY RATIFICATION, STEAMSHIP LINES, MEETINGS, CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONF, PRICE TRENDS, FREIGHT RATES
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANJO03281
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740239-0963
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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30 JUN 2005

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